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The Thirteenth International Peace Congress.

The Thirteenth International Peace Congress, for which such long and careful preparation had been made, has come and gone. It was successful beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who had labored so earnestly and hopefully in organizing it. It was a great Congress—great in numbers, great in the character of its membership, great in interest, great in ideas and purposes, great in the dignity and sobriety with which it conducted itself, and great in its conclusions.

All the meetings preliminary to the opening of the Congress proper were most successful. Scores of ministers in and about Boston, and in various parts of the country, used the previous Sunday services to advocate the great principles in whose behalf the Congress was gathering. The union service in Tremont Temple Sunday afternoon, at which the religious aspects of the peace cause were considered, could not well have been better. The addresses of Dr. Francis H. Rowley, Rev. Walter Walsh, Rev. A. L. Lilly, Rabbi Berkowitz, Dr. Reuben Thomas and Dr. Charles G. Ames were all strong, direct and courageous, evincing clearly that modern religious bodies, however much they may have been open to the charge of indifference, have many able leaders in the front rank of this commanding movement.

The musical consecration service on Sunday evening in Symphony Hall won the admiration of all who attended it. The music was of the highest order, the singing by the members of the Handel and Haydn Society inspiring and uplifting, the responsive scripture reading a fine exhibition of the power and effectiveness of harmonious effort, and the brief discourse pronounced by the Bishop of Hereford a lofty presentation of America's opportunity and duty to take the lead in promoting the pacific development of the world.

No one who attended the opening ceremonies of the Congress Monday afternoon, October 3, when John Hay, the distinguished Secretary of State, came on to welcome the delegates on behalf of the national government, can ever forget the occasion. The great auditorium of Tremont Temple was filled to its utmost capacity,—three thousand people,—and as many more were turned disappointed away. The Mayor of Boston was there to join in the welcome, and the speaker of the State Senate representing the Governor. The audience was as choice and representative as it was large. The presence and hearty sympathy of Mr. Hay, representing one of the greatest powers of the world, was a signal proof that the cause of international peace and goodwill has at last won its way to the seats of authority, and become the affair of government leaders and the highest national councils, as well as of the numerous peace societies, arbitration organizations, and a vast and growing public constituency. This feature of the occasion was deeply felt by all who were present, both Americans and foreigners.

The address of Mr. Hay is given in full in this issue. There are certain statements in it, in reference to our recent history, which do not at all commend themselves to our judgment. But, these aside, its open committal of the government to arbitration as a settled policy, to the judicial settlement of disputes by an international court, to the conclusion of treaties of obligatory arbitration stipulating reference of controversies to the Hague Tribunal, and in general to a definite policy of justice, goodwill and peace among the nations, such as our country has followed so largely in the past, makes it easily the greatest, and, as we believe it will prove to be, the most potent word which has recently been spoken in reference to international affairs. It has been heard round the world.